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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: PROCESS AND COMPOSITION FOR ASSAYING CARBOHYDRATES

(57) Abstract: Processes, compositions, and reducing reagents for assaying carbohydrates, including carbohydrates associated with a glycoprotein, are described.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/08477

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : C12Q 1/54

US CL : 435/14

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 435/14

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

WEST - Patents, PGPubs; STN - Registry, CAPlus

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| X | US 5,543,054 A(CHARKOUDIAN, et al.) 06 August 1996 (06.08.1996), col. 19, lines 1-20. | 1-4, 6 |
| --- | | ----- |
| Y | | 5, 7-8 |
| Y | WANG, CHIN-YU and HSIEH, YOU-ZUNG, Analysis of Chitin OligoSaccharides by Capillary Electrophoresis with Laser-Induced Fluorescence, Journal of Chromatography A, 2002, Vol. 979, pp. 431-438, especially Abstract, 431-43433, 436. | 3-8 |
| Y | Methane, sulfinylbi, Registry, 16 November 1984 (16.11.1984), pp. 1-2. | 3-8 |

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T"

later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&"

document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

16 November 2004 (16.11.2004)

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/08477

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
Please See Continuation Sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: 1-8

Remark on Protest

☐
☐

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
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BOX III. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid.

Group I, claim(s) 1-8, drawn to a composition for use in analyzing one or more carbohydrate, which comprises a reducing agent, a derivatizing agent and DMSO.

Group II, claim(s) 9-18, drawn a process for analyzing one or more carbohydrates, which comprises contacting one or more carbohydrates with a reducing agent, a derivatizing agent capable of covalent attachment to one or more carbohydrates, which is in a solvent comprising an aqueous buffer having a predetermined pH; and a reducing agent in a second solvent comprising DMSO.

Group III, claim(s) 19-23, drawn to a kit for analyzing one or more carbohydrates by fluorescence, which comprises a derivatizing agent capable of forming one or more fluorescing carbohydrate derivatives from one or more carbohydrates, which is in a solvent comprising an aqueous buffer having a predetermined p; and a reducing agent in a second solvent comprising DMSO.

The inventions listed as Groups I, II, and III do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: The composition is known (See US Patent 5,543,054, col. 19, lines 1-29 - disclosing a solution of oligosaccharides, N-acetylglucosamine oligomers prepared as aqueous solutions to which the oligo labeling dye ANTS, i.e a derivatizing agent capable of forming one or more fluorescing carbohydrate derivatives from the one or more carbohydrates, was added and the reducing agent of sodium cyanoborohydride in DMSO were added and incubated resulting in fluorescent band conjugated tetra-, penta-, hexa-, and hetamers. These are the exact carbohydrates, derivatizing agents and DMSO taught in the Specification, see, e.g. pp.. 2-7. Since no special technical feature exists, there is no unity of invention.